

REMARKS

Claims 1-79 were pending of which claim 55 is canceled. All remaining claims 1-54 and 56-59 are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 55 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 55 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (USPN 5,140,611). However, claim 55 is canceled and thus this rejection is now moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 14-16, 26, 27, 33, 40, 45, 56-58, 60, 61, 66, 70, 71, 75 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360). Endick discloses a digital telephone for synchronizing the cadence of visual indicators of auxiliary devices attached to the digital telephone. In particular, Endick discloses a digital telephone 100 with a handset 106, a microcontroller 118, an option bus 136, and various option modules (auxiliary device) 104 (FIG. 1). Endick discloses that the purposes of and functions of the option modules 104 include additional keys and indicators, a headset attachment, data communications, digital voice processing, and alternate phone personalities modules. (Col. 3, line 66-col. 4, line 2). The option modules 104 of Endick are merely devices that are auxiliary *for the base telephone* and are not accessories *for the headset*.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites a telecommunication system that includes a telephone headset, an accessory *for the telephone headset*, and a *headset* adapter coupled to both the headset and the headset accessory that directly controls the accessory for the telephone headset.

Endick, on the other hand, fails to disclose or suggest an accessory *for the headset*. Endick makes no mention of nor suggests auxiliary devices *for the headset*. In Endick, the option modules 104 for the base telephone are not accessories to one another, i.e., they are independent of each other. While Endick lists a headset as one possible accessory to the telephone, such mention does not equate to disclosing or suggesting accessories *for the headset* (as recited in claim 1) or for any other accessories. Indeed, it is the unique advantages of providing various accessories *for the headset* and directly controlling or monitoring those accessories for the headset via the headset adapter that form the basis of the independent claim 1 and other independent claims.

Not only does Endick fail to disclose or suggest an accessory *for the headset*, as discussed above, but Endick also fails to disclose or suggest an accessory *for the headset* that is directly controlled or monitored by a headset adapter via packets over an accessory interface bus

of the headset adapter. Again, Endick merely discloses a microcontroller and interface combination *for the base telephone*. Endick's express purpose is "to have individual indicators operating at the same cadence across all units to be in synchronization (flash the same time as well as the associate rate)" to give the user a perception of a single system image. (Col. 1, lines 55-60), Endick's express purpose thus *requires* the use of a central microcontroller and interface combination *for the base telephone*. Modifying Endick's telephone by providing a headset adapter that directly controls or monitors the an accessory for the headset would be contrary to the express purpose stated by Endick.

Therefore, Endick not only fails to disclose or suggest the accessory for the headset controlled or monitored by the headset adapter but Endick actually teaches away from a system as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 15 recites an adapter base for a telecommunications headset coupled to an accessory for the headset; independent claim 26 recites a headset accessories interface bus coupled to a headset accessory; independent claim 33 recites an interface bus for a headset adapter and a headset accessory; independent claim 40 recites a method using a headset adapter base and an interface bus; independent claim 56 recites a communications protocol for a headset accessories interface bus; independent claim 66 recites a combination having a headset adapter and a communications protocol; independent claim 70 recites a headset adapter base for testing a headset accessory; and independent claim 75 recites a method for testing a headset accessory using a headset adapter. With regard to these independent claims, Endick similarly fails to disclose the elements relating to the headset accessory and headset adapter as discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 66, 70, and 75 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Combination of Endick with Secondary References

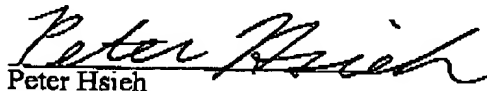
The deficiencies of Endick are not overcome with the addition of secondary references. In particular, claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick in view of Yamaguchi, King, Miesterfeld, Waechter, Jones, Yamada, and/or Tanaka. However, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for the similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Endick. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Hsieh
Reg. No. 44,780

Plantronics, Inc.
345 Encinal Street
P.O. Box 635
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-0635
Telephone: (831) 458-7758
Facsimile: (831) 426-2965